**Assignment 1: Research Proposal**

The **research proposal** is our first stepping stone in our research projects! The goal of this assignment is to articulate a topic and research questions that you’d like to explore as you work on gathering data.

This proposal **will not prevent you** from altering your research questions or narrowing your topic later on down the road. This assignment is meant to give us **a starting point**.

How to **locate** your research questions:

* Yes, you should have at least one question. The question(s) should interest you and have the possibilities to help you explore something related to you and your future. For example, the question(s) can be related to the courses you are taking, the disciplines you are interested in, or even your dream jobs.

In the following contexts, do you have any unsolved curiosities or any sparkling moments you want to seize? Keep asking a few how and why questions, and you might find research questions.

* Your ENG101 project;
* Any prior assignments from the courses you took;
* Conversations with faculty members or workplace staff;

**In addition**, you can locate your research questions by:

* Conducting one or two interviews with some community members;
* An article that disturbs, confuses, or intrigues you.

In your research proposal, you are suggested to:

1. **Introduce your topic:**

* What topic are you interested in researching? Give us as much detail as possible about the topic you’re interested in.
* Why are you interested in this topic? How is the topic related to you?
* How are you interested in this topic? What events/readings/conversations become the triggers for you to become interested in this topic?
* Why is studying this topic important? Why does it matter to you?

2. **Describe your research questions:**

* What are your research questions?
* You can start your research questions with a hypothesis or some open questions.
	+ If you have an argument, what do you want to argue?
	+ If you have open questions, what do you expect to explore through the projects in ENG102?
	+ Flexibility: If you start with an argument, you can alter your argument in the later process; if you start with open questions, you also can form an argument when it is necessary.
* What are some keywords or search terms you’ll use?

3. **Consider your potential audience:**

* Your audience includes me and your classmates.
* At the end of the course, you are going to present your research in class and we will give you feedback. How will you address your research process and findings to an audience like us?
* How do you want to communicate with your audience?
* Who else might be a potential audience for your research project?

**Formatting Requirements:**

* An APA Title Page.
* The content of the paper must be at least 800 words.
* Formatting: 1-inch margins, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font.
* A page for references in APA style (with at least 2 sources). However, if you include primary sources instead of secondary sources, you don’t need to include the reference page.
* Your draft should be as a .docx file. A link to a Google document is not acceptable.
* Upload your draft to Blackboard on 2/5/2023.

**Organization:**

There is no wrong or right way to go about how you frame the writing of this assignment, as long as the structure and organization clearly make sense. However, if you are feeling lost in terms of what to do for the structure, consider the following:

* [Research Topic Section]
	+ Briefly introduce your topic
	+ What interests you about this topic
	+ How familiar are you with this topic
* [Research Question or Hypothesis]
	+ State your research question or point out your hypothesis at this stage
* [Literature Review]
	+ Summarize two sources addressing your research question
	+ What research have you done/has been done
	+ Cite the sources in APA style (for APA style, please refer to the handouts at the University Writing Center: <https://louisville.edu/writingcenter/for-students-1/handouts-and-resources> )
* The two sources must be published in the recent 10 years. If your source does not include a publication date, it does not meet the requirement of this assignment.
* You are encouraged to include scholarly articles as your sources.
* If you are searching for public sources, I highly recommend you look for op-ed articles.

Rubrics

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| APA style |  | 20 pts |
|  | In .docx or .doc document  |  |
|  | 1 inch margin |  |
|  | 12 Times New Roman font |  |
|  | Spacing: double space, 0 pt for “Before” and “After” spacing |  |
|  | APA Title Page |  |
|  | Page Number |  |
|  | Alignment: left |  |
| Word Count | Over 800 words |  |
| Content |  |  |
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The Word Document “paragraph” settings should be like this:

 